

# Lost towns discovered in Amazon

A A remote area of the Amazon river was once home to densely populated towns. The Upper Xingu, in west Brazil, was once thought to be virgin forest, but in fact shows evidence of extensive human activity. Researchers found remains of complex town structures connected by road networks and organised around large central squares. There are signs of agriculture, irrigation, and fish farming. The settlements are now almost completely overgrown by rainforest.

B The ancient urban communities date back to before the first Europeans set foot in the Upper Xingu region of the Amazon in the fifteenth Century. Professor Mike Heckenberger, from the University of Florida, said: "These are not cities, but this is urbanism, built around towns. They have remarkable planning and organisation, more than many classical examples of European colonists and the diseases they brought with them."

C Although the remains are almost invisible, they can be identified by members of the Kuikuro tribe, who are thought to be descendants of the people who built the towns. The obvious signs included farming, pieces of pottery and walls. The researchers also used satellite images and GPS navigation to make maps of the area over a period of ten years.

D The communities consisted of several towns and smaller villages at various places in the rainforest. Like medieval European and ancient Greek towns, they were surrounded by large walls. Each community made of earth, and are still visible. Each community had an identical road, always pointing north-east to south-west, which was connected to a central square. Evidence was also found of artificial lakes, which scientists think may have been used for fish farming. Scientists suspect that the people who once lived in the settlements died out because of the arrival of European colonists and the diseases they brought with them.

- 1 Read the text and choose the correct answers. (4 marks)
- 1 Densely populated towns...  
A used to be common in Upper Xingu.  
B have never existed in Upper Xingu.  
C are being planned in Upper Xingu.  
2 The urban communities...  
A were built by Europeans.  
B had ancestors who built the towns.  
C made the towns visible.  
4 The communities...  
A had big walls all the way around them.  
B had walls made of stone.  
C were very different from medieval European towns.

- 2 Match words 1-8 with words from the text. (4 marks)
- 1 areas of human habitation (paragraph A) *settlements*  
2 arrived (paragraph B) *settled*  
3 ceramics (paragraph C) *pottery*  
4 became extinct (paragraph D) *died out*
- 3 Complete the sentences with the correct prepositions. (2 marks)
- 1 Researchers found the remains *of* towns.  
2 The towns date back *to* the fifteenth century.  
3 The settlers have been identified *by* members of the tribe.  
4 The communities consisted *of* several towns.

Total /10 marks

# Ambition and motivation

## UNIT 3

### READING

- 1 Read the title and look at the photo. What do you think the text is about?  
A Why people choose to become different kinds of dancer.  
B How one young man progressed from street dancing to ballet.

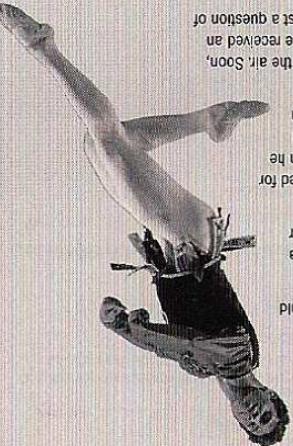
## BREAKDANCER to Ballet dancer

A Motivation and ambition can take you to the top. Carlos Acosta, one of the most gifted male ballet dancers in the world today, proves that. He is the Principal Artist for the Royal Ballet in London, and has danced with companies in Houston, Tokyo and Moscow. Although Carlos has achieved fame and fortune, he comes from a very humble background and if he hadn't overcome many obstacles, he would never have fulfilled his ambitions.

B Born in 1973 in Havana, Carlos is one of eleven children and the son of a truck driver. He grew up in a tiny apartment. Football was his obsession, but he failed to get into the local training school. His sister introduced him to breakdancing. He would meet up with a gang of friends and practise all day long.

C Carlos' father was worried that his son was hanging out with gangs. A neighbour, whose nephew danced for the Cuban National Ballet, suggested sending Carlos to ballet school. At first, Carlos hated it and soon he began to skip classes. He failed his exams, his teachers were fed up with him and his father punished him. Luckily, his father said he could have another chance, as long as he got through his exams, which he did.

D On a trip to see the Cuban National Ballet, Carlos was motivated by a dancer who seemed to hang in the air. Soon, Carlos was winning competitions and dancing for the same company. A week after his 18th birthday he received an invitation to dance with the English National Ballet. Carlos' story is remarkable, but perhaps it's not just a question of motivation and ambition. It's also important to be in the right place at the right time.



- 2 Read the text again and choose the correct answers.
- 1 Carlos...  
A has received gifts from companies.  
B dances all over the world.  
C will never achieve his ambition.  
D hasn't had many obstacles.
- 2 In Havana, Carlos...  
A lived in a large flat.  
B went to a football academy.  
C danced with a gang.  
D played football with a gang.
- 3 Carlos' father...  
A didn't think his son should be friendly with gangs.  
B had a neighbour who was a ballet dancer.  
C asked Carlos' teachers to give him more food.  
D didn't give his son a second opportunity.
- 4 The writer thinks that...  
A for success, all you need is motivation and ambition.  
B you have to break away from your family to be successful.  
C there is often an element of luck in successful people's lives.  
D you can only be successful if you're lucky.

- 4 Find words or expressions in the text which match the definitions.
- 1 naturally talented (paragraph A) *gifted*
- 2 lorry (paragraph B) *truck*
- 3 very small (paragraph B) *tiny*
- 4 not go to (paragraph C) *skip*
- 5 a visit (paragraph D) *trip*